
From: Kylie McClelland <extremeparenting@hotmail.com>
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To: AppropriationTestimony
Subject: Endorsement for Inclusion Teaming

I would like to pass on to you my views of the programme run by Inclusion Teaming.

As a lifelong advocate, author, daughter and parent of people who live with the challenges of Autism Spectrum Disorder and mental health vulnerabilities I have been very impressed by this group's capacity to impact the lives of people usually neglected in the support they require to develop connected inclusive lives with respect to their capacity and potential. High functioning individuals are at particular risk of developing secondary psychiatric conditions which are often overlooked in the shadow created by life with a formal diagnosis. This programme delivers something meaningful to these individuals and to the communities they strive to be part of.

Below is my endorsement.

To The Inclusion Teaming Community

In light of the recent tragic events and the stigma it has attached to people living with the brain difference of high functioning autism I felt I wanted to reach out and connect with your community, even though I am not a fellow American, I am a fellow advocate in the ASD and mental health area and I recognise our shared culture.

I believe strongly that the values and ideals of the Inclusion Teaming Programme are the way forward in supporting our privileged first world societies to embrace, and function for, all its members particularly those who are at risk of living a life marginalised due to developmental disabilities like ASD. Co-morbidity with mental illness is disproportionately represented in individuals experience everyday life through the eyes of Autism. High rates of depression do not translate directly to tragedies like Sandy Hook, it takes a deeper kind of disturbance to lead a person to mass murder. This deeper type of disturbance can present in any person in any walk of life regardless of brain function.

Skills and relationships are the two greatest safeguards and assets an individual can have. This is an even more relevant truth when we think about people who have high functioning ASD and are trying to function in a world they are intrinsically out of synch with.

The Inclusion Teaming programme has at its very heart the expectation that an individual has the right to aspire to their personal potential, and the vehicles it uses are skills development and relationships which act as bridges bringing the two worlds of mainstream and difference together for the enrichment of all.

Under Catherine Hogans's humanitarian, insightful and compassionate guidance I feel very comfortable adding my endorsement to this programme. I feel very excited by the idea that this programme which is delivering real results will spread as a model globally one day.

My deepest empathy goes to the community touched by the tragic disillusionment of an individual, and my greatest energies go to bringing recognition and tolerance and investment to the mechanism which may contribute in some way to the prevention of the kind of social isolation and dysfunction that permitted this atrocity to occur unimpeded.

regards
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